

AMPHILL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and of the

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR

for the

YEAR 1970

Medical Officer of Health - G.R.THORPE, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector and Surveyor -
J.P.MEARS, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

To THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
AMPTHILL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Report for the year 1970. The vital statistics indicate that the health of the district remains in a satisfactory state. There has been little change over the past years.

There were ninety-six births in the district, including two illegitimate births. Three babies died under the age of one year.

The deaths totalled ninety-three. The chief causes of death were malignant disease, with ten deaths, three of these being due to lung cancer. Heart disease accounted for thirty-five deaths and cerebrovascular disease caused nineteen deaths.

Deaths from lung cancer continue to cause concern. A great deal of publicity has been given to this disease and its connection with cigarette smoking. Once the habit of smoking has been formed it is often difficult to give it up. It is necessary to concentrate on advising children not to start the habit and to explain the merits of not smoking rather than to give frightening reports of what will happen if they do. It is a difficult task when they see so many others smoking and they do not understand the continued advertising of cigarettes and the absence of control over their manufacture and sale. Until the adult population changes its attitude towards smoking it will be difficult to convince children of the danger in cigarettes.

I should like to express my gratitude to the Members of the Council for their support and interest in the work of the Health Department. My thanks are also due to the staff of the Health Department for their conscientious work during the year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

G.R. THORPE

Medical Officer of Health.

AMPTHILL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for 1970

1. OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health - G.R.THORPE, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Surveyor,

Public Health Inspector

and Housing Manager

- J.P.MEARS, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

2. GENERAL STATISTICS RELATING TO THE DISTRICT

Area (in acres) 1,904 acres.

Population:

Census for 1961 3,854

Registrar General's estimate of
home population, mid-year 1970 5,180

Number of inhabited houses 1,792

Rateable value (1st April 1971) £212,472

Sum represented by a Penny Rate (to 31.3.71). £858



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3. VITAL STATISTICS

<u>Live Births</u>				<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	..	..	..	36	58	94
Illegitimate	..	..	..	2	-	2
Totals				38	58	96
Crude Birth Rate..	..	18.5	per 1,000 home population			
Adjusted Birth Rate	..	13.7	"	"	"	
(The comparability factor for the District being .74)						
As compared with -						
Adjusted Rate for Bedfordshire		17.7	per 1,000 home population			
Rate for England and Wales		16.0	"	"	"	

<u>Still Births</u>					<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	-	-	-
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	-	-	-
Totals					<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Still Birth Rate..					..	- per 1,000 total (live and still births)	
As compared with -							
Rate for Bedfordshire					8.7	"	"
Rate for England and Wales					13.0	"	"

<u>Deaths</u>				<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths in the District	..	..		32	33	65
Transferred into the District.	..			17	13	30
Transferred from the District.	..			1	1	2
Totals				48	45	93
Crude Death Rate	..	18.0	per 1,000 home population			
Adjusted Death Rate	..	10.3	"	"	"	
(The comparability factor for the District being .57)						

As compared with -
Adjusted Rate for Bedfordshire 10.2 per 1,000 home population
Rate for England and Wales 11.7 " " "

<u>Deaths of Infants under One year of age.</u>				<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	..	..	..	<u>3</u>	-	<u>3</u>
Illegitimate	..	..	..	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Totals				<u>3</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3</u>
Infant Mortality Rate	31.0 per 1,000 related live births					
As compared with -						
Rate for Bedfordshire	15.9	"	"	"	"	"
Rate for England and Wales	18.0	"	"	"	"	"

<u>Deaths connected with Childbirth</u>	
Maternal Mortality	.. NIL

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE DURING 1970

Cause of Death	Total all ages.												Age in years												75 and over	
	Under 4 weeks		4 weeks & under 1 year		1-4		5-14		15-24		25-34		35-44		45-54		55-64		65-74		M	F				
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F						
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	-											1													
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	-																			1		-			
Malignant neoplasm, intestine	1	-																			1					
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	3	-																	1		2					
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	2															1									
Leukaemia	1	1																								
Other malignant neoplasms	2	1														1		1				1				
Multiple sclerosis	1	-								1																
Other diseases of nervous system	1	-																								
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	1	-																								
Ischaemic heart disease	13	15																			1					
Other forms of heart disease	4	3																								
Cerebrovascular disease	5	14											1													
Other diseases of circulatory system	2																									
Influenza	1	5																			1					
Pneumonia	5	2																								
Bronchitis and emphysema	1	-																								
Congenital anomalies	1	-		1																						
Birth injury, difficult labour etc	2	-		2																						
Motor vehicle accidents	1	-																								
All other accidents	1	2																								
Total all causes	48	45	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	1	3	-	5	12	6	25			33			

4. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES IN THE AREA

Provided by the Bedfordshire County Council.

Ambulance Service.

The Bedfordshire County Council continues to provide ambulance services from the five Stations for the whole of the Administrative County area.

Ambulance or sitting-case car transport is also available for carrying patients who are unable to travel by other means to and from hospitals or clinics when attendance for medical treatment is necessary.

In addition, the Ambulance Service undertakes the removal to isolation hospitals of patients suffering from infectious disease.

The Nursing Services.

Chief Nursing Officer: Miss W.Frost,
Health Department,
County Hall, Bedford.
Telephone - Bedford 63222.

The District is adequately covered by Home Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting personnel, who operate under the supervision of the Chief Nursing Officer and her Assistants.

Domestic Help.

Organisers: Mrs.V.M.Van Berckelaer,
County Hall, Bedford.
Telephone - Bedford 63222.

Miss K.Kelly,
County Offices, Vernon Place,
Dunstable.
Telephone - Dunstable 65861.

Domestic Help is provided over the whole of the County in households where assistance is required. The amount of help given relates to the needs of those assisted.

5. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

No cases of diptheria or poliomyelitis were notified during the year. Immunisation against these diseases and whooping cough and tetanus is carried out during the first year of life.

In addition to these diseases, protection is offered against measles and tuberculosis. Recently girls are being given injections against rubella (German measles). If this disease occurs during the early months of pregnancy, it can have serious effects on the unborn baby. Girls aged fourteen years and thirteen years are being protected and in future this will be offered to girls reaching their twelfth year.

Occasional cases of dysentery and food poisoning occur, but no serious outbreak took place during the year. When the patient is a food handler it is necessary to exclude the person from work to ensure that the disease is not passed to others.

(a) Notifications by Age Groups

Disease	0 - 4	5 - 14	15 and over	Age unknown	Total
Measles	17	4	-	1	22
Infective jaundice	-	1	-	-	1

(b) Tuberculosis, in Age Groups

Age	New cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year								
1 - 4 years								
5 - 14 years	-- N I L --				-- N I L --			
15 - 34 years								
35 - 65 years								
Over 65 years								
Totals								

Number on Register at End of Year:

			Male	Female
Pulmonary	..	..	3	2
Non-Pulmonary	..	..	-	2

Mass Radiography

A mobile x-ray unit, provided by the Mass Radiography Service of the Regional Hospital Board, visits the Sands, Woburn Street, Ampthill, on Thursdays from 12.00 to 12.15 p.m. and during this period patients sent by general practitioners can be x-rayed.

6. CLEANSING OF VERMINOUS PERSONS

Section 85 of the Public Health Act 1936 refers principally to school children with head lice infestations and these are dealt with by the Health Visitors as a matter of routine.

7. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948 - Section 47

Section 47 of the National Assistance Act provides for the removal to hospital or Part III accommodation on a Court Order, of sick or old people who are unable to look after themselves. It was not found necessary to use this legislation during the year.

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8. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

(a) Water Supply

Adequate supplies of water have been maintained throughout the District by the Bedfordshire Water Board. The Ampthill Urban District is supplied from the Clophill Borehole, with a small part from the Great Ouse Water Authority pipeline.

Chemical Analysis of Treated Water from Borehole Supplies (Average Analysis of Samples taken weekly)

<u>Treated Water leaving Waterworks</u>						<u>Clophill</u>
Turbidity (A.T.U)	..	..	..	..	..	5.1
Colour (Hazen Units)	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Reaction pH	..	..	..	..	..	7.71
Electric Conductivity (reciprocal Megohms per ml at 20°C)	..	..	..	..	..	610
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Albuminoid Nitrogen	..	..	..	..	..	0.01
Nitrate Nitrogen	..	..	..	..	..	Less than 0.10
Chloride as Cl	..	..	..	..	..	32
Carbonate Hardness as CaCO ₃	..	..	..	..	..	246
Non Carbonate Hardness as CaCO ₃	..	..	..	..	..	104
Total Hardness as CaCO ₃	..	..	..	..	..	350
Calcium as CaCO ₃	..	..	..	..	..	297
Magnesium as CaCO ₃	..	..	..	..	..	53
Free Carbon Dioxide	..	..	..	..	..	10
Sulphate as SO ₄	..	..	..	..	..	97
Iron as Fe	..	..	..	..	..	0.12
Lead, Copper, Zinc	..	..	..	..	..	None found
Sodium as Na	..	..	..	..	..	14
Potassium as K	..	..	..	..	..	4
Manganese as Mn	..	..	..	..	..	None found
Fluoride as F	..	..	..	..	..	0.36
Silica as SiO ₂	..	..	..	..	..	21
Phosphate as PO ₄	..	..	..	..	..	Less than 0.10
Temperature °C	..	..	..	..	..	11

Results in milligrammes per litre

(b) Drainage and Sewerage

The Sewage Disposal Works are sited at Abbey Lane and consist of the following - Detritus and Sedimentation tanks, rotary percolating filters, humus tanks, storm water overflows and sludge beds. The treated effluent discharges into the "Running Waters" Brook, which enters the River Flitt.

A number of effluent samples taken by the River Board's Officers were in the main found to be unsatisfactory but it is hoped there will be an improvement when the upward flow clarifiers to the humus tanks have been installed.

No case of flooding of foul water sewers was reported during the year.

(c) Rivers and streams

The only case of serious pollution is at Running Waters due to the discharge from the Poultry Processers at Doolittle Mill. Consideration is still being pursued with a view to connecting to main drainage.

(d) Cesspools, Pail Closets.

During the year one cottage provided a septic tank system in lieu of the existing pail closet.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH (Continued)

(e) Public Cleansing

During the year it was not possible to maintain a regular weekly collection and towards the end of the year Contractors were engaged to carry out this service on a twelve months initial contract. It is too early at this stage to say how successful and efficient this service will be.

The Council does not operate a cesspool cleansing service, occupiers of premises drained to cesspools and septic tanks make their own private arrangements for emptying.

(f) Salvage.

The collection of wastepaper and card is not considered an economic proposition and therefore no separate collection is made.

(g) Sanitary Inspection of Area

The following is a summary of the sanitary and other defects dealt with during the year -

Premises with defective and insanitary closets	..	..	4
Premises with insanitary and defective drains	..	..	7
Premises with insufficient sanitary accommodation	..	..	1
Premises with insanitary and defective cesspools	..	..	2
Premises with defective windows, insufficient light and ventilation	..	..	2
Premises with defective floors	..	..	2
Dirty Premises	..	..	-
Dangerous structure	..	..	-
Accumulations of offensive matter	..	..	1
Unsound meat and other foods	..	..	17
Rooms disinfected for bed bugs etc. and infectious disease.	..	..	-
Nuisance from rats and mice	..	..	112
Other dilapidations	..	..	-
Number of Statutory Notices served	..	..	-
Number of Informal Notices served	..	..	9
Number of defective premises	..	..	9

(h) Shops and Offices

No Statutory action was taken in connection with the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.

(i) Caravans, Moveable Dwellings, Camping Sites etc.

No applications were received for caravans or moveable dwellings during the year.

There are no permanent sites for moveable dwellings or camping situated within the Urban District.

(j) Smoke abatement

Complaints were received from residents in the vicinity of industrial premises, but on investigation, though these were of a troublesome nature, they did not constitute a statutory nuisance and therefore no formal action was necessary. The owners of the industrial premises concerned were approached informally on this matter.

(k) Disinfestation (Not rodent control)

No treatments were necessary.

9. HOUSING

Fifty-nine private houses were completed and occupied, the majority of these being on the Oliver Street, Warren Farm and The Coppins Estates.

The following Plans were approved under Building Regulations -

- 15 Alterations to Business Premises
- 69 Alterations to Domestic Premises
- 11 Private Garages
- 19 Conservatories and Porches
- 1 Residential Estate - 80 dwellings
- 1 Pair Semi-detached Houses
- 1 Ambulance Depot
- 1 Sanitary accommodation, Baptist Church.

Town and Country Planning

Seventy-one Applications under the Town and Country Planning Act were received, of which 52 were approved, 7 refused, 10 withdrawn, 2 deferred.

Four Applications under the Advertisement Regulations were received, two of which were refused and two approved.

10. RODENT CONTROL

The Council has continued to employ the retired Operator on a part-time basis, which has proved most satisfactory.

11. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Number of premises handling food and visits made thereto -

(a) <u>Shops</u>	<u>Premises</u>	<u>Visits Made</u>
1. Ice Cream Vendors	13	24
2. Bakers and Confectioners	7	11
3. Grocers	4	7
4. Fishmongers	1	8
5. General Stores	9	22
6. Butchers	5	16
7. Dairies and retail milk distributors	2	5
(b) <u>Vans, Stalls and Hawkers</u>	5	12
(c) <u>Catering Establishments</u>		
1. Restaurants and Cafes	3	9
2. Industrial Canteens	1	4
3. School Canteens	3	6
4. Hotels	1	4
5. Outside catering contractors	-	-
6. Fish and chip shops	1	8
7. Others	-	-
(d) <u>Manufacturing Establishments</u>		
1. Sausage Makers	5	16
2. Meat pie and cooked meat makers	5	16
3. Bakehouses	-	-
4. Ice Cream Makers	-	-
5. Confectionery Manufacturers	-	-
6. Others	-	-

(e) Milk Supply (Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949

Milk (Special Designation) Regulations 1949-54)

Regular inspections have been carried out of the two retailers premises which were found to be satisfactory. Three dairies situated outside the district retail designated milk within the Urban area.

(f) Unfit Foods

The following foodstuffs were condemned as unfit for human consumption -

2249 lbs. Chicken and Chicken Meat
128 lbs. Meat
32 lbs. Frozen Foods
7 cartons Mousse
3 cans Frozen Orange Juice
3 Frozen Sponge Cakes

Tinned food and groceries which are usually condemned in small quantities are collected and buried at the Council's Refuse Tip. Condemned meat at the Butchers Shops is always stained with condemned meat dye before collection by processing firms.

(g) Butchers Shops (all registered under S.16 Food and Drugs Act 1955)

The five Butchers Shops have been regularly inspected and are maintained in a good condition, all complying with the Food Hygiene Regulations.

(h) Ice Cream Registrations

Thirteen premises are registered for the sale of ice-cream, all of which are licensed to sell a pre-packed article. No samples were taken during the year by this Department.

(i) Food Hygiene Regulations

Regular inspections were carried out to ensure the Regulations were being complied with.

(j) Poultry Processing Establishments

There is only one establishment within the Urban District where poultry processing is carried out. The number of birds processed during the year was 976,191 (Broilers 29,364, Hens 873,831, Turkeys 6,222 and Capons 66,774).

No regular routine inspection is carried out by the Council's Officers but spot inspections and checks are made. The staff employed at the Plant carry out their own routine inspections. No accurate records are kept on the number of birds rejected as unfit for human consumption but the weight of poultry condemned during the year by this Department was 2,249 lbs.

The actual number of visits made to the premises was 49 and the hygiene of the premises, management and employees is most satisfactory.

There are of course problems with regard to effluent, which have been mentioned elsewhere in this Report.

12. PREScribed PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION
OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1961

(a) Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health
(including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

	Number on Register	Number of -		
		Inspec- tions.	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority.	3	8		
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	23	35		
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority. * excluding outworkers' premises.	10	22		
Total	36	65		

* Institutions, Section 124 and sites of building operations
and works of engineering construction, Section 127.

(b) CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

(if defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more 'cases').

Particulars	Number of cases		Defects to H.M. Inspector.	Found by H.M. Insp:	Number of cases in w which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied			
Want of Cleanliness (s.1)					
Overcrowding (s.2)					
Unreasonable temperature(s.3)					
Inadequate ventilation (s.4)					
Ineffective drainage of floors (s.6)					
Sanitary Conveniences (s.7)					
(a) Insufficient	1	1			
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1			
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	1			
Other offences against the Acts (not including offences relating to outwork)					
Total	3	3			

PART VIII OF THE ACT - OUTWORK

Sections 133 & 134

Nature of Work.	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of out workers in August list required by Section 133 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to Council.	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists.	No. of instances of work in unwhole-some premises.	Notices served.	Prosecutions.
Wearing apparel making etc.	-	-	-	-	-	-
